

(b) whether the Government have taken steps to remove toddy and arrack shops situated near temples, mosques, school zones and areas where the Scheduled Caste people reside as per Government Order ;

(c) the number of shops shifted so far ?

Sri S. M. YAHYA (Minister for Excise and Labour):—

(a) No

(b) Yes.

(c) 68.

12 Point Prohibition Programme

305 Sri N. B SIRDESAI (Khanapur)— Will the Minister for Excise and Labour be pleased to state:—

(a) the procedure adopted by the Government for locating arrack and toddy shops in the state ;

(b) whether Government is aware of 12 point programme envisaged by the Prime Minister of India in respect of prohibition policy, in the Country;

(c) whether Government have issued any instructions to the District officers for implementation of the 12 point prohibition programme ?

Sri S. M. YAHYA, (Minister for Excise and Labour):—

(a) The person in whose favour the bids are confirmed shall make an application to the Deputy Commissioner together with the list of sites with its boundaries selected for locating the shop. the Deputy Commissioner after consulting the village Panchayat or Local Authority concerned under rule (5) of the Karnataka Excise Licences (General Conditions) Rules, 1967 and after making such enquiry as he thinks fit, may approve the site so selected.

(b) Yes. The 12 point programmes which had appeared in the News Papers has been taken note of.

(c) No specific instructions have been issued as such after the Government of India published the 12 point programme in the news papers. As a matter of fact many of the points indicated in the programme have already been implemented by the State Government.

The Government has already prohibited the advertisement and public inducement for drinking. The Government has also banned opening of liquor shops near industrial organisation and developmental projects. The Government has issued general circular to the

effect that there shall be no liquor shops along the highways and residential areas in Town and villages. Since there was no uniform pays days in the State for various establishment, the suggestion for declaring pay day as dry day is under examination of the Government. Motor Vehicles Act prohibits people who drive vehicles from consuming liquor. Government servant Conduct Rules prohibit drunkenness while on duty and also at public places.

SRI T. R. SHAMANNA.— Is the Government aware of the fact that as long as free licensing policy is there it is not possible to implement the twenty-point programme to uplift the poor people ?

† SRI S. M. YAHYA.— This twenty-point programme has probably nothing to do with this for the simple reason that either to have prohibition or not is itself a different issue and guided by different view points. So, to that extent the present Government policy is to continue the existing policy.

SRI T. R. SHAMANNA.— Are the government aware that the toddy sold is adulterated and also there are defective measurements. If it comes to the notice of the government, what action will it take ?

SRI S. M. YAHYA.— There were certain drawbacks regarding measurements in certain places. We have set right wherever possible. We will see that they would get according to the measurements and also as pure as possible.

SRI P. A. PAWASHE.— May I know the authorities who are entrusted with the implementation of the 12-point programme at district level ?

SRI S. M. YAHYA.— The 12-point programme is more or less a guide-line. In Karnataka some of these points we have implemented. So far, from the government of India we have not received any official communication. There are a number of points. Government have implemented, for example giving liquor advertisement in newspapers and magazines. Similarly, we have given strict instructions that these shops should not be along the high ways and residential areas in towns and villages, or near the educational or religious institutions.

SRI P. A. PAWASHE.— In answer to clause (c) you stated that government have issued a general circular. May I know when it was issued and if it is found that if, in spite of this circular, shops are started along highways, etc., what action will the government take ?

SRI S. M. YAHYA.—The circular was issued a few years back and last year also. If there are specific cases, we will see that they should be either deleted from the auction or shifted. There are certain cases, where boot-leggers are much more interested that these shops should be removed, for the reason that as soon as it is shifted, they will have better business. To that extent, we will see that these people do not take advantage of the government circular.

SRI J. P. SARVESH.—A person who takes toddy and arrack in auction re-auctions it and makes huge profits. Why not government think of nationalising the toddy and arrack business?

SRI S. M. YAHYA.—If there are drawbacks, nationalisation will not solve this.

ಶ್ರೀ ಟಿ ಎಂ. ಮಂಜುನಾಥ್.— ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಪಾನನಿರೋಧವನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರುವುದರಿಂದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕಾಗುವ ತೊಂದರೆ ಏನು? ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಪಕ್ಕದ ತಮಿಳು ನಾಡು ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾನನಿರೋಧವನ್ನು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ; ಅದೂ ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ಪಾನನಿರೋಧ ಇರುವ ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ ಬಡತನ ಜಾಸ್ತಿ ಯಾಗುತ್ತಾ ಇದೆ. ಅದುದರಿಂದ ಕೂಡಲೇ ಪಾನನಿರೋಧವನ್ನು ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ತರುತ್ತೀರಾ?

SRI S. M. YAHYA.—It is a very serious and difficult problem. The issue of prohibition can be approached from different points of view,—one is religion, another is historical, and the third is medical and fourth is governmental and administrative. As far as religion is concerned, the koran completely prohibits, Christianity tolerates, and Hindu scriptures give different points of view. As far as historical reason is concerned, it is an ancient habit and as this English proverb goes: Habits die hard. As far as the medical view is concerned, there are distinguished doctors who have condemned this drink and have said that drinking is harmful and there are very eminent reputed doctors who, not only recommend-liquor for curing certain specific diseases but also say liquor is necessary for general health and it has food contents also. Government cannot approach this problem like an individual. An individual may have certain sentiments. Government cannot base its action on sentiments. One of the guide-lines government would have is public opinion and the second is respect of law. If there is consensus in the country: that there should be prohibition, then that consensus should be respected. But there is a section of people in our society who will say 'scrap prohibition' and there is a section in the society which will say 'introduce prohibition.' So it depends upon public opinion. Secondly, any enactment of the law should be such that it should not lead to disrespect of law. If people are of the opinion that it will not help them or they will violate the law, this disrespect of law is the most dangerous thing and enforcement or implementation would be most difficult. These are all important aspects which we consider at the government level.